

**In the Claims:**

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for cutting vegetables into ribbons or into strips, comprising:
  - a frame provided with at least one cutting blade mounted transversely relative to a slot for the passage of the vegetables cut, as well as two lateral rails, and
  - a housing guided for translation to and fro along the guide rails and defining in its interior a space for receiving vegetables to be cut, the housing being intended to be gripped manually by the user in order to be moved to and fro along the guide rails whilst a pressure is constantly exerted on the vegetables contained in the receiving space so as to apply them against the cutting blade or blades mounted on the frame and to permit cutting by that blade or those blades,characterized in that  
the housing is constituted, on the one hand, by a parallelepipedal guide chamber  $[(1)]$  which is open in its upper portion and has a length  $[(L)]$  substantially greater than its width  $[(\ell)]$ , the guide chamber  $[(1)]$  being equipped with two lateral fins  $[(4_1, 4_2)]$  the edges  $[(5)]$  of which are turned down in order to define two slides  $[(6_1, 6_2)]$  which have a U-shaped cross-section and cooperate with the guide rails and, on the other hand, by a pusher  $[(2)]$  comprising a presser plate forming a base  $[(7)]$  of a geometrical shape corresponding to the cross-section of the guide chamber  $[(1)]$  and fitting in that chamber  $[(1)]$  in order to permit the application of the vegetables to be cut against the cutting blade or blades mounted on the frame upon the movement of the housing, as well as by a grip  $[(8)]$  to be gripped manually by the user so as to define an integral assembly during translation on the frame.
2. (Original) Device according to Claim 1, characterized in that it comprises means for adjusting the cutting width.
3. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 and 2, characterized in that it comprises at least one removable longitudinal chopper equipped with a set of equally-spaced blades directed substantially perpendicularly relative to the transverse blade or blades so as to enable the vegetables to be cut into strips.

4. (Currently Amended) Housing intended for a device for cutting vegetables into ribbons or into strips according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 3, characterized in that it is constituted, on the one hand, by a parallelepipedal guide chamber  $[(1)]$  which is open in its upper portion and has a length  $[(L)]$  substantially greater than its width  $[(\ell)]$ , the guide chamber  $[(1)]$  being equipped with two lateral fins  $[(4_1, 4_2)]$  the edges  $[(5)]$  of which are turned down in order to define two slides  $[(6_1, 6_2)]$  having a substantially U-shaped cross-section and, on the other hand, by a pusher  $[(2)]$  comprising a presser plate forming a base  $[(7)]$  of a geometrical shape corresponding to the cross-section of the guide chamber  $[(1)]$  and fitting in that chamber  $[(1)]$  as well as a grip  $[(8)]$  to be gripped manually by the user.

5. (Currently Amended) Housing according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 4, characterized in that the guide chamber  $[(1)]$  has a length  $[(L)]$  of about 15 to 20 cm.

6. (Currently Amended) Housing according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 5, characterized in that the grip  $[(8)]$  is constituted by an inverted U-shaped element substantially centred in the plane which is perpendicular to the presser plate forming the base  $[(7)]$  and extends through the central longitudinal axis  $[(X-X')]$  of that plate  $[(7)]$  and comprising, on the one hand, two lateral arms  $[(11_1, 11_2)]$  which are substantially perpendicular to the presser plate forming the base  $[(7)]$  and the ends of which are fixed to that plate, respectively, at the level of its opposite edges  $[(12_1, 12_2)]$  which are intersected by the central longitudinal axis  $[(X-X')]$  and, on the other hand, a central arm  $[(10)]$  or gripping arm having an ergonomic shape.

7. (Currently Amended) Housing according to Claim 6, characterized in that the central arm  $[(10)]$  of the grip  $[(8)]$  comprises cavities  $[(14)]$ .

8. (Currently Amended) Housing according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 6 and 7, characterized in that the lateral arms  $[(11_1, 11_2)]$  of the grip  $[(8)]$  are equipped with stiffening plates  $[(15_1, 15_2)]$ .

9. (Currently Amended) Housing according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that the presser plate forming the base ~~[(7)]~~ is equipped, on its lower face remote from the grip, with a series of spikes ~~[(9)]~~ distributed uniformly over its surface.